



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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## **Bellingham's Ray Fann honored for 25 years of battling noxious weeds**

OLYMPIA – A Bellingham man has been honored with the highest award sponsored by the state Department of Agriculture for his work in fighting noxious weeds statewide. Ray Fann received the Director's Citation Award March 19 from Bill Brookreson, acting director of the state Department of Agriculture, at Tuesday's meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board in Wenatchee.

Fann has been chair of the statewide board for the past 12 years and has been a member of the board since 1977. He is a retired construction worker and a "farmer at heart," owning cattle since the early 1960s.

The Noxious Weed Control Board is an advisory board to the state Department of Agriculture that acts to protect and preserve land and resources from the degrading impact of noxious weeds. The board coordinates and supports the activities of 48 county weed control boards and weed districts in the state.

"Ray has a well-deserved reputation for fairness and respect for opinions on managing noxious weeds that threaten agriculture, private properties, recreational and resource areas," Brookreson said. "He has an outstanding record of selfless public service."

Fann assisted in overhauling state weed law in the late 1980s, a move that stressed support for reaching solutions to weed problems statewide. He also was involved in the formation of the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board and has served as chair of that board since it was formed in 1981.

There are 114 plants included on the 2002 state noxious weed list. The board's Web site is at [www.wa.gov/agr/weedboard](http://www.wa.gov/agr/weedboard).

The Director's Citation Award recognizes the efforts of an individual, group or organization to:

- Promote the work or public understanding of the state Department of Agriculture or agriculture in general.
- Provide for continued enhancement of the agency, an agency division, or agriculture in general.
- Develop or enrich a program to educate others or more effectively explain the goals of a program or agricultural activity.

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